

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IT2004/000045

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61C8/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00/06042 A (SUTTER FRANZ) 10 February 2000 (2000-02-10) page 9, line 7 -page 19, line 14 page 22, line 9 -page 25, line 20; figures ---	1
X	WO 01/34056 A (BEEKMANS JOHANNES CORNELIS STA) 17 May 2001 (2001-05-17) abstract; claims; figures ---	1
X	WO 00/21455 A (CARMICHAEL ROBERT P ;SANDOR GEORGE K B (CA); JOHNSON DONALD R (CA)) 20 April 2000 (2000-04-20) page 6, line 17 -page 18, line 10; figures ---	1
X	US 2002/142265 A1 (WEISSMAN BERNARD) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03) abstract; claims; figures ---	1
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 June 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

30/06/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 537 070 B1 (STUCKI-MCCORMICK SUZANNE) 25 March 2003 (2003-03-25) abstract; claims; figures -----	1
X	US 5 246 370 A (COATOAM GARY W) 21 September 1993 (1993-09-21) the whole document -----	1

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national application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: — because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

The wording of present claims was unclear to such extend that it was impossible to determine the scope of the protection of the claims. Consequently, the search was carried out in the light of the description and the figures.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0006042	A	10-02-2000	WO 0006042 A1 EP 1100395 A1 US 6461160 B1		10-02-2000 23-05-2001 08-10-2002
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